

**Minutes of the 2013-14 IHSA Competitive Cheerleading  
Advisory Committee Meeting  
Wednesday, March 5, 2014**

The IHSA Competitive Cheerleading Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington. Committee members present were Gina Laio, Chicago (St. Ignatius), Ryan Pitcock, Principal, Flossmoor (Homewood-F.); Joey Stanforth, Taylor Ridge (Rockridge); Shari Muehlich, Tremont; Angie Goley, Dwight; Robbie Walters, Columbia; Carley Redman, UCA State Director; Becky Weslow, IHSA Officials Representative; Laurie Wager, Spirit Officials Association Representative and Camille Munson, Coaches Association Representative also attended the meeting. Bryon Houy, Athletic Director, DeKalb, was unable to attend. IHSA Assistant Executive Director, Susan Knoblauch, conducted the meeting.

**TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS**

**1. Item I-C- School Classification**

**Recommendation:** Member schools shall be categorized for participation in competitive cheerleading on the basis of the three divisions of allowable team size: 1A, 2A, and 3A up to 28 rostered participants with no more than 24 allowed on the competition floor and not less than 5.

**Rationale:** To create a single team size for all classes. This would bring Cheer in line with other sports, in particular the IHSA Dance Terms & Conditions. When schools sit on the classification cut line they have difficulty knowing how many participants to field from year to year. The recommendation would create a consistent standard. All other IHSA sports have a standardized number to field on the competition floor that is unattached to a school's enrollment. This proposal would promote participation.

**Died for lack of motion**

**2. Item I-C- School Classification**

**Recommendation:** The Coed Division will be defined as one (1) male on the competition floor.

**Rationale:** Upon reviewing the divisions that competed with one male, it would be equitable to have teams entered into the state series as coed w/one male on the competition floor. This change would align with other events competition rules. The current score sheet and rubric is equitable in scoring teams with one male on the coed roster. Local schools will still have the option to compete in their single gender division or declare as a co-ed team by Nov. 1. The IHSA cheer state series

began with 26 coed teams and has grown to 59 co-ed teams. Shari Muehlich, Tremont and Joey Stanforth, Taylor Ridge (Rockridge) were not in support of this recommendation.

**Died for lack of motion**

### 3. **Item VI – E Tournament Structure and Time Schedules**

**Recommendation:** The IHSA office will determine the performance order for Sectional and State level competition. This order will be posted on-line on the cheerleading link at [www.ihsa.org](http://www.ihsa.org). A random sort by the IHSA office will determine the performance order for sectional. The following formula shall be used to determine the performance order for the State Final:

1. Each sectional is randomly assigned a letter code (A to E) prior to the start of the state series.
2. The chart below, and the sectional code, is published at the same time as the sectional performance order.
3. Each team's performance order within a particular division is determined by the place the team won at the sectional tournament, according to the table.
4. In case of a tie for 5th place at a sectional, an additional entry will be added at the end of the order.
5. In case of a tie for any particular place at a sectional, the teams will perform in the opposite order in the state finals. For example, at sectional A, two teams tie for 2nd (and 3rd) place. In the chart, the order assigned to A-2 is #14. The order assigned to A-3 is #18. Reversing the order, the team that performed first in the sectional is assigned order #18. The team that performed last in the sectional is assigned order #14.

<b>Order</b>	<b>Sectional</b>	<b>Place</b>
1	A	5
2	B	4
3	C	3
4	D	2
5	E	1
6	B	5
7	C	4
8	D	3
9	E	2
10	A	1
11	C	5
12	D	4
13	E	3
14	A	2
15	B	1
16	D	5

17	E	4
18	A	3
19	B	2
20	C	1
21	E	5
22	A	4
23	B	3
24	C	2
25	D	1

**Rationale:** To provide a consistent performance order that separates sectional champions. Also, provides a predetermined schedule for qualifying schools to make travel arrangements. Passed 7-0

Approved

**4. Item VII. E. Advancement of Winners**

**Recommendation:** Teams will compete in reverse order from how they placed in prelims (e.g. The team with the highest score after prelims in a particular division will compete last in that division during finals).

**Rationale:** To provide a culminating experience and reward the team who is advancing first out of prelims.

Not Approved

**5. Item VIII-A-2a Tournament Rules – Competition Guidelines**

**Recommendation:** It is recommended that the competitive cheering surface for the state series shall be a matted area of 54 feet wide x 42 feet deep (9 strips).

**Rationale:** The extra 2 strips will provide added safety for teams. For teams with 20 plus participants, out of bounds safety is an issue. It would not be a requirement for schools to purchase the added strips, however, the 2 added strips being present at sectional and state level would allow for an added safety area during the intense post season competition. Currently, once the boundary lines are set up on the 42 x 42 mat the area of actual performing space becomes 40 x 40 which is a tight space for the participants. Because the IHSA scoring rubric is guided by the number of participants performing a majority of the skills, the two extra strips are necessary to ensure the safety of the participants having enough room on the mats. Local invitational competitions may still utilize the 42 x 42 floor. The IESA utilized 9 mats for their Cheer State Finals.

Approved

**6. Item VIII-B-3 Tournament Rules - Scoring**

**Recommendation:** When five officials are used at the State Final, the high and the low scores will be dropped. The remaining scores are averaged.

**Rationale:** Secures the quality of a given score by eliminating the outlying variances.

Approved

**7. Item VIII-D-6 and Item IX-I Videotaping**

**Recommendation:** Delete VIII-D-6 which states: “Coaches may not use electronic communication/coaching devices (i.e.-cellular phones, laptops, palm pilot, video cameras, etc.) once they have checked into the competition warm up areas and while in the credentialed areas of the competition.” Also delete the first sentence in IX-I which states: “Videotaping by competing schools will not be allowed.”

**Rationale:** This rule is antiquated and obsolete.

Approved

**8. Item XI- C Officials**

**Recommendation:** A Head Coach can have the opportunity to meet with the IHSA Head Official and/or Sectional Manager and/or Designee at the conclusion of the competition to clarify any mathematical errors or ask any technical interpretation questions. Other tournament communication can be directed to the Host Manager. Questions regarding a team’s performance or experience can be directed to the IHSA.

**Rationale:** To clarify & ensure the most positive experience for all, questions or concerns that affect a team must be communicated by the coach to the IHSA. The appropriate official will then be contacted to review the situation. However, all Officials’ rulings are final related to legalities, deductions and final team placements.

Died for lack of motion

**9. Item VIII. A-1-c Tournament Rules - Competition Guidelines**

**Recommendation:** All competition rules will apply until the team completely clears the competition floor.

**Rationale:** To clarify to teams that they are responsible for all IHSA Terms and Conditions Rules and NFHS Spirit Rules until the entire team leaves the competition surface. This includes, but is not limited to, all dismounts that may occur after the official timing has ended with the last motion, word or beat of music.

Approved

### **ADMINISTRATIVE RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. Clarify the IHSA online entry process in the 2014-15 Spirit Rules Presentation to education coaches to make sure that their entire coaching staff is in compliance with the IHSA Coaching By-Law 2.070. This would include anyone working the music at a competition. The PES requirement will also be reviewed.
2. Continue to offer a Coaches Roundtable on Saturday from 2-3pm at the Cheer State Final.
3. Develop an Ad-Hoc Committee to meet in June to review the rubric categories and ranges; define what drops a team out of rubric range and define elite entries, advanced body positions and incomplete skills. This information will be solidified and ready to present at the July officials conference.
4. Continue to work with Tourney wire to post all scores and score sheets from Sectional and State level competition.
5. Present the Cheer Officials Representatives to the IHSA Officials Advisory Committee with a conflict of interest statement for review and submission into the IHSA Officials Handbook.

### **DISCUSSION ITEMS**

1. Venues & logistics – Sectional Host Sites and State Final
2. By-law review for 2014-15
3. Success Advancement Component
4. Score checks/review systems
5. Starting values to scoring
6. Difficulty & Amplitude Rubrics
7. Score sheet separations of rubric categories - limit non rubric categories
8. Geographical policy for sectional assignments
9. Weather & cancellation issues
10. Officials Conference topic ideas